

COEUR SILVER VALLEY GALENA UNIT SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT REPORT

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State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the watershed characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit*, describes the public drinking water system, the watershed boundary, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within this boundary. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit drinking water system draws water from collection dams in Lake and Tincup Creeks. Water from Lake Creek is piped to the Tincup Creek dam then the combined water is piped to a series of reservoirs for potable and non-potable water. This combined source received a ranking of low susceptibility to contamination from volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals and microbials. Historically, water quality in Lake and Tincup Creeks is good. Radionuclides below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) were detected in 1999. Synthetic organic chemicals and volatile organic chemicals have never been found in the water.

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For the Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit drinking water system, source water protection activities should focus on preventing sediment flow into Lake and Tincup Creeks from roads, logging or mining in the watershed. Due to the fairly short time associated with the movement of surface waters, source water protection activities should be aimed at both short-term and long-term management strategies to counter any future contamination threats. Source water protection activities should be coordinated with the appropriate public land management agencies.

A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact your regional IDEQ office or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR COEUR SILVER VALLEY GALENA UNIT, IDAHO

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this source means.** A map showing the delineated source water assessment area, map showing the entire watershed contributing to the delineated area, and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within the delineated area are attached. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is attached.

Background

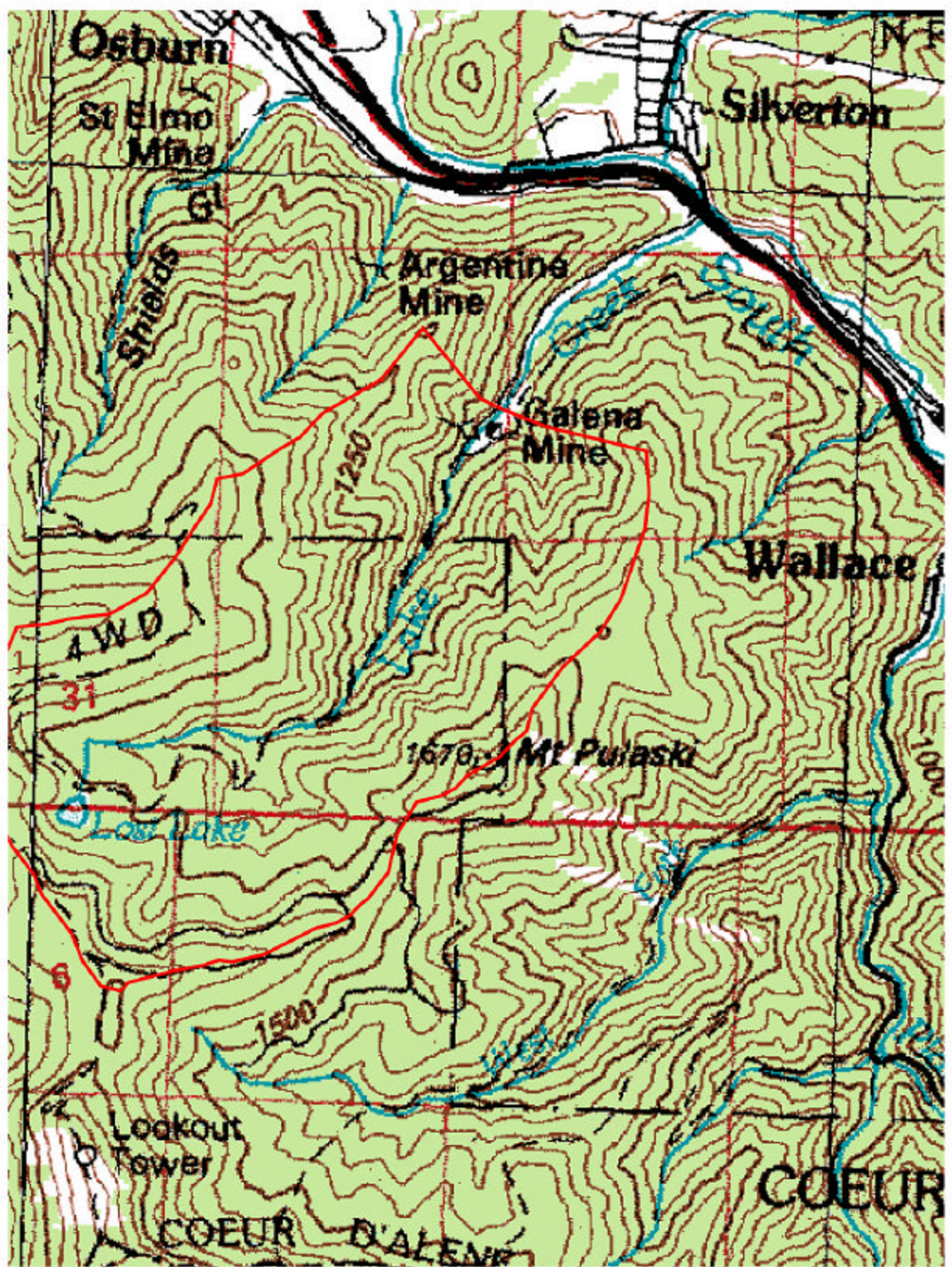
Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the intakes and watershed characteristics.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

Since there are over 2,900 public water sources in Idaho, there is limited time and resources to accomplish the assessments. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. An in-depth, site-specific investigation of each significant potential source of contamination is not possible. **Therefore, this assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. IDEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a source water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Source water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit.



Section 2. Conducting the Assessment

General Description of the Source Water Quality

Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit water system serves a population of approximately 240 people working at the mine and mill site located about 1.8 miles west of Wallace, the county seat of Shoshone County (Figure 1). Public drinking water for Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit is drawn from Lake and Tincup Creeks. The watershed above the treatment plant covers nearly 2000 acres southwest of the mine.

The primary water quality issue currently facing Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit is that of preventing contamination associated with land disturbances in the watershed. In 1999 radionuclides were detected in the water, but below the MCL. Mines in the drainage discharge below the surface water intakes. An underground storage tank for petroleum products, removed in 1992, was located on the Galena site but down gradient from the collection dams.

Defining the Zones of Contribution--Delineation

To protect surface water systems from potential contaminants, the EPA required that the entire drainage basin be delineated upstream from the intake to the hydrologic boundary of the drainage basin. (U.S. EPA, 1997b). The EPA recognized that an intake on a large water body could have an extensive drainage basin. Therefore, the EPA recommended that large drainage basins be segmented into smaller areas for the purpose of implementing a cost-effective potential contaminant inventory and susceptibility analysis. The delineation process established the physical area around an intake that became the focal point of the assessment. Because the watershed for the Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit water system is relatively small, the delineation was not subdivided (Figure 2). The delineation extends to the watershed boundaries as they appear on a 7.5-minute USGS topographic map.

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of surface water contamination. The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by IDEQ and from available databases.

The dominant land use in the Lake Creek-Tincup Creek watershed is undeveloped, forested land. The watershed contains 2 mines, and is crossed by unpaved roads and pack trails. Land in the drainage is under both private and public ownership.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided best management practices are observed. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release.

Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination. These involve educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply intake.

Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted by IDEQ. It involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit Source Water Assessment Area through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by IDEQ.

A total of 3 potential contaminant sites, are located within the delineated source water area. The two mines and an underground storage tank removed from the site in 1992 (Figure 2), and are not considered to be significant sources of potential contaminants affecting the Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit drinking water source.

Figure 2. Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit Delineation Map and Contaminant Sources.

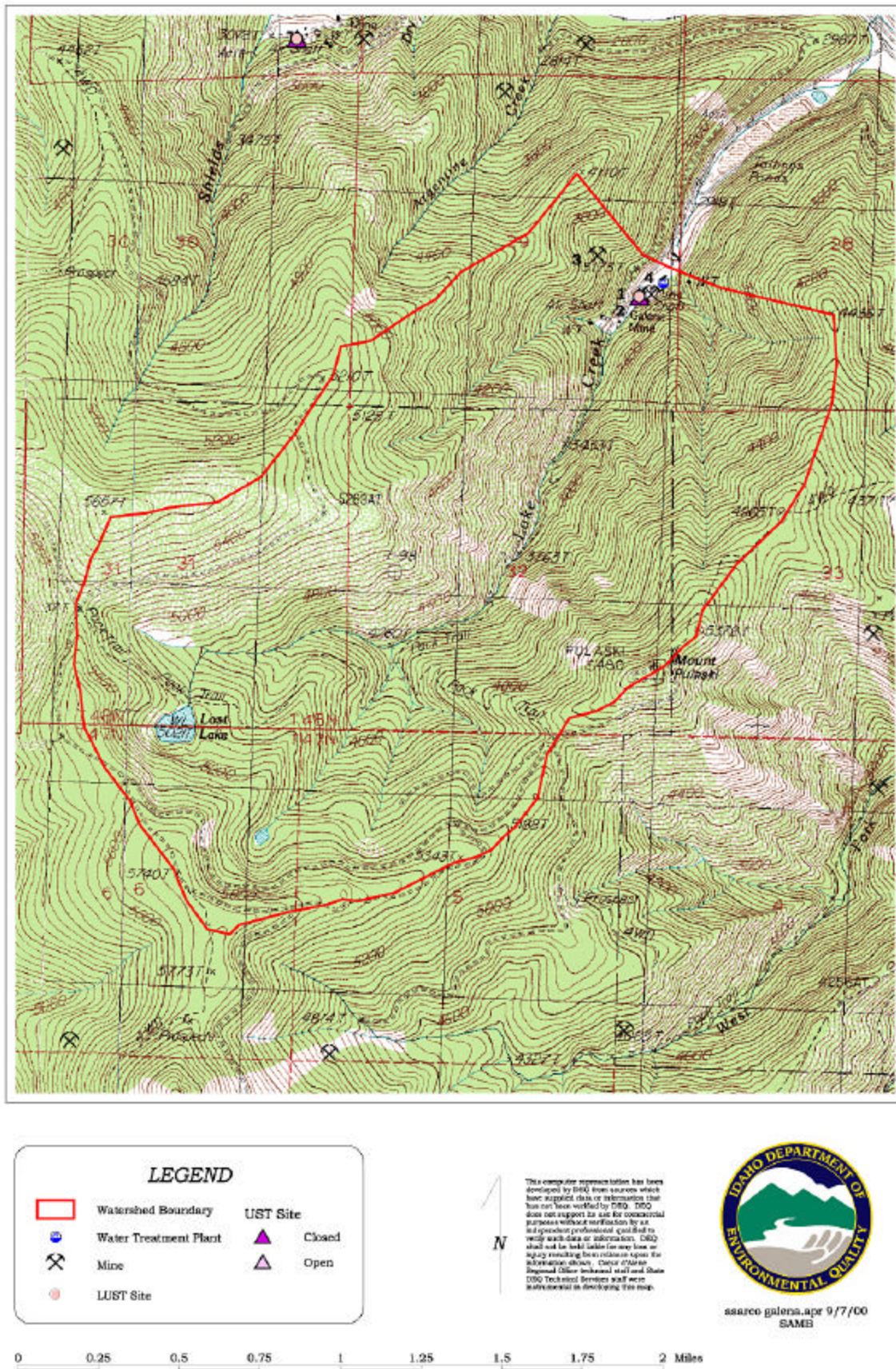


Table 1. Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit Potential Contaminant Inventory

MAPID	Source Description	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants
1	REMOVED UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK	LUST Database	VOC
2	REMOVED UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK	UST Database	VOC
3	ABBATOUR CLAIM	Mine Database	IOC
4	GALENA	Mine Database	IOC

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

Section 3. Susceptibility Analyses

Significant potential sources of contamination were ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity and construction of the intake, land use characteristic, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each intake is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Intake Construction

The construction of the Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit public water system intakes directly affects the ability of the intake to protect the source from contaminants. The Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit drinking water system consists of two collection dams that provides surface water for domestic and industrial uses. Water from the Lake Creek dam is piped to the collection dam on Tincup Creek. The combined water is then piped to a common reservoir. Susceptibility to contamination, based on intake construction details reported in IDEQ sanitary surveys, is moderate.

Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

The Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit public water system ranks in the low class for susceptibility to contamination from volatile organic chemicals, synthetic organic chemicals and inorganic chemicals. As indicated in Table 2 the intake shows a low susceptibility to microbial contamination, which is generally related to storm water runoff, the presence of septic systems, or agricultural grazing in the surface water protection zone.

Table 2. Summary of City of COEUR SILVER VALLEY Galena Unit Susceptibility Evaluation

Intake	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
	IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
Galena Unit	L	L	L	L	M	L	L	L	L

H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, Low Susceptibility

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

H* - Indicates source automatically scored as high susceptibility due to presence of either a VOC, SOC or an IOC above the Maximum Contaminant Level in the finished drinking water or the presence of significant contaminant sources within 1000 feet of the intake.

Susceptibility Summary

The Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit drinking water source is most threatened by sediment-laden runoff from disturbed land in the watershed.

Section 4. Options for Source Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require education and surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective source water protection program is tailored to the particular local source water protection area. A community with a fully developed source water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit, source water protection activities should focus on implementation of best management practices aimed at reducing sediment runoff from logging, mining, road building or maintenance and recreational activity in the drainage. Since the land in the drainage is not owned entirely by COEUR SILVER VALLEY, partnerships with federal, state and local agencies to regulate land use in the watershed should be established and are critical to success. Due to the relatively short time involved with the movement of surface water, source water protection activities should be aimed at short-term management strategies, and at the same time need to address long-term impacts from mining, logging and other land disturbances in the watershed.

Assistance

Public water suppliers and others may call the following IDEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the IDEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Coeur d'Alene Regional IDEQ Office (208) 769-1422

State IDEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

References Cited

Idaho Department of Agriculture, 1998. Unpublished Data.

Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, Unpublished Data

EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), 1997, State Methods for Delineating Source Water Protection Areas for Surface Water Supplied Sources of Drinking Water, EPA 816-R-97-008, 40p.

U.S. Government Printing Office, 1995, Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 112, Appendix C-III, Calculation of the Planning Distance

Attachment A

Coeur Silver Valley Galena Unit Susceptibility Analysis Worksheet

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined from the addition of the Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score and Source Construction Score.

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 7 Low Susceptibility

8 - 15 Moderate Susceptibility

> 16 High Susceptibility

Surface Water Susceptibility

Public Water System Name :

ASARCO GALENA UNIT

Source : LAKE CK

Public Water System Number :

1400081

10/16/00 9:48:03 AM

1. System Construction

SCORE

Intake structure properly constructed	YES	0
Infiltration gallery		
or well under direct influence of surface water	NO	2

Total System Construction Score

2

2. Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use

IOC VOC SOC

Score Score Score

Predominant land use type (land use or cover)	BASALT FLOW, UNDEVELOPED, OTHER	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0
Significant contaminant sources *	NO			
Sources of class II or III contaminants or microbials	not present	0	0	0
Agricultural lands within 500 feet	NO			
		0	0	0
Three or more contaminant sources	YES	1	1	0
Sources of turbidity in the watershed	YES	1	1	1

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score

2

2

1

3. Final Susceptibility Source Score

4

4

3

4. Final Source Ranking

Low

Low

Low

Low

* Special consideration due to significant contaminant:

The source water has no special susceptibility

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as **Superfund** is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.